

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06780 031336Z

43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 031205Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8720

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY AMSTERDAM

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USUN NEW YORK 3498

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6780

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 06780 031336Z

KUWAIT POUCH DOHA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF
SUBJ: ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL

SUMMARY. REGULAR ARAB LEAGUE (AL) COUNCIL MEETING, ATTENDED BY ONLY 10 OF 20 FOREIGN MINISTERS, SEEMS TO HAVE PASSED OFF WITHOUT ANY SERIOUS SQUABBLING. PRESUMABLY ALL PARTIES RESTRAINED THEMSELVES FROM DEBATE ON VITAL ISSUES OF JORDANIAN

DISENGAGEMENT; IF THERE WAS A SET-TO, IT HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY HUSHED UP. GOE TOOK PAINS TO STRESS EFFORTS MADE ON PLO'S BEHALF AND APPARENTLY NOT ONLY SUPPORTED PLO REQUEST ON UNGA, BUT TOOK CREDIT FOR IT. END SUMMARY.

1. TREATMENT BY CAIRO PRESS OF PALESTINIAN ISSUES TAKEN UP BY ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL HAS BEEN CONCILIATORY. ON AUG 31, FOR EXAMPLE, ALL DAILIES GAVE FRONT PAGE EXPOSURE TO PLO EX COMM STATEMENT AFTER DAMASCUS MEETING, INCLUDING POINT THAT "PLO REJECTS DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN." NEXT DAY ALL PAPERS FEATURED MORE HELPFUL STATEMENT BY ARAFAT TO ARAB LABOR LEADERS IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY SAID "NO DIFFERENCES WHATSOEVER EXIST OR WILL EVER EXIST BETWEEN THE PALESTINE REVOLUTION AND EGYPT, THE NATURAL ALLY OF THE PALESTINE REVOLUTION".

2. FM FAHMY'S ADDRESS TO AL COUNCIL AS REPORTED BY PRESS, ALSO SEEMS CONCILIATORY. FAHMY AVOIDED ANY EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO JORDANIAN DISENGAGEMENT, STRESSING MERELY THAT ARABS MUST FACE ENEMY WITH CHOICE BETWEEN HONORABLE, JUST PEACE OR RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES. HE SAID THEATRICAL ISRAELI ACTIONS CANNOT INJURE ARAB UNITY, AND REITERATED THAT GOE POLICY IS BASED ON REGAINING OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, INCLUDING "ARAB JERUSALEM", AND OBTAINING LEGITIMATE RIGHTS FOR PALESTINIANS. IN LATTER CONNECTION, FAHMY POINTED OUT GOE IS WORKING TO GET INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR PLO AS "LEGITIMATE REP" ("SOLE" OMITTED) OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND PLO RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT ROLE AT GENEVA. IN FOLLOW-UP ITEM, "LEARNED" CONTACTS WERE UNDER WAY AMONG AL COUNCIL OFFICIALS DEALING MAINLY WITH GOE-PLO RELATIONS. ALL PAPERS REPORTED OPTIMISTICALLY THAT GOE-SARG-PLO MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE FOLLOWING KHADDAM'S RETURN
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 06780 031336Z

FROM ROMANIA.

3. RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY AL COUNCIL POLITICAL COMMITTEE (LEBANON, EGYPT, SYRIA, ALGERIA, PLO AND AL SEC GEN RIAD) INCLUDE:

- A. ARAB SUMMIT. SUMMIT WILL BE HELD IN RABAT OCT 26, PRECEDED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING THERE OCT. 22.
- B. PALESTINE IN UNGA. FAHMY ANNOUNCED UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF

PLO REQUEST THAT "PALESTINE QUESTION" BE ENTERED ON UNGA AGENDA

AS SEPARATE ITEM, AND THAT COMMITTEE COMPRISING AL SEC GEN, AND REPS OF EGYPT, LEBANON, SYRAI, ALGERIA, AND PLO WILL DRAFT WORKING PAPER ON UN TACTICS, HEADS OF ARAB UN DELEGATIONS WILL SEEK INVITATION FOR PLO TO SPEAK DURING DEBATE.

C. EC-ARAB DEIALOGUE. COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS FORM ALL AL MEMBERS WILL WORK OUT POLICY OF DIALOGUE AND WILL MEET SIMILAR EC COMMITTEE DURING SECOND HALF OF NOVEMBER IN PARIS. SECOND PERMANENT COMMITTEE CONSNTING OF SEC GEN RIAD AND LEBANESE FM (IN CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF CURRENT SESSION) WILL FOLLOW UP DIALOGUE AND CONTACT EUROPEANS. ARAB-FRENCH MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE OCT. 20 IN CAIOR TO DRAFT PROGRAM FOR LIALOGUE. D. ARAB-AFRICA. GOE SUBMITTED MEMO CALLING FOR DISUCSSION OF ARAB-AFRICAN COOPERATION.

COMMENT: VITAL ISSUES WAS, PLO'S POLICY TOWARD EGYPT AND JORDAN. FAHMY TOOK PAINS TO STRESS THAT GOE TOTALLY SUPPORTED PLO ON UNGA ISSUE, AND PLO'S ABU MAYZAR, AT LEAST, RESPONDED POSITIVELY BY DESCRIBING AL DECISION AS MOST SIGNIFICANT AL RESOLUTION FOR 25 YEARS. EILTS

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